**WHAT SET GERMANY UP TO DESTROY ITS FLEDGLING DEMOCRACY?**

**LEARNING INTENTIONS:**

Students will begin to tune their “ear” to history **geekspeak.**

Students will start to see a pattern in the social and political history of Germany that *may* account for the socialization and formation of a national character that: honours strong, militaristic leadership and sees successful military campaigns against other nations as justification and affirmation of this.

Students will independently to research and record their findings in hand-writing.

Students will record: the title of the article, the author of the article, the title of the book or magazine or website, the www address, the publisher and date of publishing (if it is a book).

**Success Criteria:**

Students can define historical terms and understand formal language.

Students can discuss the issue of whether it is “nature” or “nurture” that “makes” a human who or what they.

Students demonstrate independent research habits

Students develop the routine of noting down the title, author and publishing details of their sources beside their sourced information.

**What set Germany up to destroy its fledgling democracy – The Weimar Republic?**

* A history of paternalistic leadership?
* A respect for authority and a willingness to be led?
* What was the “Kaiserine” Germany like that the German people craved for during the 1920’s?
* What was it about Germany and the Germans during the 1920’s and 30’s that made them feel the need to run to the firm arms of one of the most evil dictatorships in history?
* What was it about Germany’s history that shaped their society, socialization and national character?

**Background**

Until the end of the 18th century Germany was a collection of nearly 400 separate states of varying size – and mostly under Austrian political control.

These states were consolidated into 39 larger units by Napoleon Bonaparte.

Austria remained the dominant German state after the Napoleonic Wars but the eastern German state of Prussia was on the verge of issuing a serious challenge to Austrian hegemony.

1. Define “hegemony” and “Paternalistic”.
2. What is said to have ended in France with the “Constitution of the Year VIII”?
3. Who took control of France on December 24, 1799?
4. What battle took place on Sunday 18th June, 1815?
5. Who were the winners?

Frederick the Great of Prussia (1740-1786) had devoted his reign to increasing Prussia’s size and importance in Europe.

He created a large and efficient army.

He had strong support from the Junker, or landowning class of Prussia.

He was so successful that his nation became one of the continent’s foremost military powers.

In the reign of his son, Frederick William III, the Prussian army played a decisive part in Napoleon’s final defeat.

1. What was the nature of the Junker landowning class?
2. What is the continent that is being referred to?
3. Define “foremost”
4. Define “decisive”.

Frederick’s grandson, William I of Prussia, continued the family tradition of maintaining the nation’s military strength.

At his accession to the throne in 1861, Liberal elements in the Prussian Diet, or parliament, balked at his plans for military expenditure; a 50% increase in the armed forces in peacetime.

The Liberal elements in the Prussian Diet were trying to bring the Hohenzollern monarchy under parliamentary control.

When the Diet rejected the budget providing for the required expenditure, William appointed Otto von Bismarck-Schonhausen to be Minister-President of Prussia.

Bismarck was a diplomat and a member of the Junker class.

1. What do you think the term “elements” means in this context?
2. Who were the Hohenzollern’s?
3. What would parliamentary control be like?

Bismarck saw to it that the taxes for the army reforms were collected without the Diet’s approval.

Prominent Liberals were terrorized into withdrawing their opposition.

The press was muzzled.

The student groups sympathetic to Liberal viewpoints were driven out of existence.

Opposition to government policy was portrayed as unpatriotic.

***. . . . . .mmmm heard this before somewhere? . . . . . . . . . you will do!***

Prussia went to war.

1864 - Prussia and Austria won ownership of the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein from Denmark. They were situated in North Germany.

1866 – Prussia eliminated Austria from contention for Germanic leadership after the “Seven Weeks War.”

1870 – Prussia beat France.

January 1871 – in France – Wilhelm I was proclaimed Kaiser of the German Empire

***. . . . . .mmmm heard this before somewhere too? . . . . . . . . .***

In six years, the German people had the success that Bismarck had promised when he stated:

” The great questions of the day will be settled, not by speeches and resolutions of the majority but by blood and iron.”

They had every reason to follow the Hohenzollern Kaiser of Prussia.

**Bismark (1815-1898) –**

Conservative

Junker

Devoted to the Prussian monarchy and to the Prussian state.

His combination of far-seeing diplomacy and steely resolve earned him the nickname of the “The Iron Chancellor”.

His political practice was built upon a foundation of knowing his strengths and the opposition’s weaknesses.

He possessed extraordinary sensitivity to the associations and ambitions of other nations, and these abilities allowed him to predict their reactions.

He created the German Reich.

The most eloquent testament to his diplomatic genius lies in the thought that, in the eight years between his dismissal by the Kaiser and his death, the very conditions that would precipitate the war which he had avoided and which would bring Germany to her knees came into being as the results of the deficiencies of his successors.

1. Define “far-seeing diplomacy” and “steely resolve”.
2. What do you think “political practice” means?
3. What might “the associations and ambitions” of other nations mean?
4. What does eloquent mean?
5. Therefore what is an eloquent testament?
6. What does precipitate mean?
7. What does the meaning in the last sentence imply about the success of the leadership Germany after Bismarck got fired by the Kaiser?

In groups of 3-4 debate whether it is “Nature” or “nurture” that makes us.

Write a group statement. Explain what you mean. Provide two examples from your group’s own knowledge. Analyse how these examples back your point of view.